

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A method of marking and sealing a package, comprising the steps of:

indelibly marking a tape ~~tamper-proof or tamper-evident label~~ which includes a substrate and an adhesive layer, the ~~method~~ indelibly marking including applying a marking to the adhesive layer of the tape ~~label~~ with the resultant marking being visible through the substrate, wherein the indelibly marking is applied by one of:

a) hot-wax ink-jet printing; and

b) a laser marking process;

forming one or more weakened portions or areas on the marked tape before applying the tape to the package, the weakened portions or areas making the tape tamper proof or tamper evident; and

immediately applying the marked tape to the package so as to seal the package, the marked tape thereby marking and sealing the package

~~in which the adhesive layer of the label includes a pigment or additive of a suitable type to effect or enhance the marking in the adhesive layer.~~

25-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the marking is applied by [[a]] said laser marking process using a green light laser or CO₂ based laser.

28-29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein at least part of the marking is applied in a mirror or reverse image of that which is to be visible and readable through the substrate.

31. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein marking occurs during relative movement between the tape ~~label~~ and means for applying the marking.

32. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein the marking applies one or more text, alpha/numeric indicia, official seals, logos and graphical representations.

33-47. (cancelled)

48. (new) A method of indelibly marking a tape label for sealing a package in a tamper proof or tamper apparent manner, comprising the steps of:

bringing a tape comprised of a transparent substrate and a rubber-based adhesive layer on one surface of the substrate into proximity with a marking device;

using the marking device to indelibly mark the adhesive layer sufficient that the resultant mark is visible through the substrate, the marking device being one of a hot-wax ink-jet printing device and a laser marking process device; and

forming a final tape label by forming in the marked tape weakened portions sufficiently weakened that removal of the marked tape from a package results in the integrity of the marked tape being lost and indicating tampering of the package.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of forming the weakened portions is accomplished by creating a series of cuts in the marked tape.

50. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein the marking is applied by using a green light laser or CO₂ based laser.

51. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein at least part of the marking is applied in a mirror or reverse image of that which is to be visible and readable through the substrate.

52. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein marking occurs during relative movement between the tape and marking device.

53. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein the marking applies one or more of text, alpha/numeric indicia, official seals, logos and graphical representations.

54. (new) The method of claim 48, comprising the further immediate step of applying the marked tape with weakened portions to meat packaging.

55. (new) The method of claim 48, comprising the further immediate step of applying the marked tape with weakened portions to the packaging.

56. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein,
said packaging is meat packaging,
the marking made in said marking step concerns meat to be packaged in the meat packaging, and said step of applying the

marked tape to the package so as to seal the package applies the marked tape to the meat packaging.

57. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein,
the marking made in said marking step comprising content and weight information of a product to be packaged within the package.

58. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein,
the marking made in said marking step comprising content and weight information of a product to be packaged with the tape label.